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Exact Relation  
OF THE  
Several ENGAGEMENTS and ACTIONS  
OF  
HIS MAJESTIES  
FLEET

Under the Command of  
HIS HIGHNESSE  
Prince Rupert.

And of all Circumstances concerning this So-  
mers Expedition, Anno 1673.

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*Written by a Person in Command in the Fleet.*

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## EXACT RELATION, &amp;c.



SINCE my coming from Sea I have read the several Prints which have been published, and have also in daily Conversation about Town observed the various Reports and Opinions of Men, every one discoursing as he stands affected touching the Conduct and Behaviour of the several Squadrons of His Majesties Fleet by Sea during this Expedition; I perceive, that through the heat of mens manifold contradictions both in Court and City, the story of the whole matter is told onely as this and t'other Faction or Affection would have it; by which means the Truth of things hath been hidden from His Majesty, and is like to be from the Parliament and People of *England*, unless there stand forth some faithful Relator. Therefore in all Loyalty to my King, and with a most affectionate regard to his Service, that he and his Parliament may truly understand where the fault lies, that they (after so great an Expence of Bloud and Treasure) have reaped no greater fruit of so grand an Undertaking; I conceive it my duty, having had the opportunity to be an Eye-witness of every Motion and Action from first to last, and being no way obliged to favour or disfavour any Party concerned therein, to take Pen in hand, and give this clear account of the Business.

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But



But before I come to matter of fact, it will be very convenient to acquaint you with some particulars, the knowledge whereof is absolutely necessary to gain a right understanding of the Subject here related.

After a continuation of the War this last Summer with the *United Provinces* had been Resolved on by His Majesty, the next thing to be thought on was the appointing a Commander in Chief over the Fleet that should be sent forth; and concerning the Person, though all Men judged the Employment of Course might continue in the Hands of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, as Lord High Admiral of *England*, yet upon weighty Reasons of State, it was at length thought best for the good of this Kingdom, which is highly concerned in the safety of the Heir apparent of the Crown, that at present His Royal Highness should be excused from running any further the hazard of his Person in so dangerous a Service; he having already too often Exposed himself at Sea with high Courage and Resolution; and therefore His Highness Prince *Rupert* being nominated, as the next fittest Person to undertake the Command, His Majesty was pleased to resolve thereupon. And with this his Majesties purpose there immediately ensued a marvellous Concurrence of the Peoples Affections in City & Countrey, (all over the Kingdom) as well in Regard of the Royal Stock from whence His Highness sprang, as if His high Courage, Conduct, and long Experience in Affairs Military by Sea and Land, in this, and many other Nations; but yet more in respect of His tried Constancy to, and zeal for the *Reformed Protestant Profession of Religion*, and all the Interests thereof, for the sake whereof He and his Royal Family had long suffered the utmost extremity: The Sense whereof was that which chiefly drew the Hearts of the People to rejoyce in his Majesties Affignation of that most illustrious Prince; it being at such a time when the Parliament had taken Cognizance of the Confidence & Insolence of the *Popish Party*  
many



may of which being crept into places of Trust and Command, gave an universal jealousy to the Kingdom, inso-much that his Majesty and the Parliament saw it necessary, for the breaking of their Strength and Confidence, to *purge a Universal Test* upon all men that held any publick Office or Imploy by Sea or Land, in order to the removing of all such, as not submitting thereto should be found *Papishly Affected*. But yet notwithstanding this general Approbation and Applause of the Commander in Chief, there were a Generation of Men of another mind, who having found all their Arts and Endeavours of diverting his Majesty from his choice to be in vain, tack'd about to the *old trick of State*, of devising how underhand to take off the Chariot Wheels of the Princes Expedition, and to *clap on dead weight to retard him*; and so to handle the Matter among all sorts of Navy and Sea-Officers, that partly defect of due preparation, furniture, and supplies might disable Him, partly the ill timing of every Requisite, and finally the starting of Interests, discontents, and little Feuds in the Fleet, might render the whole Enterprize of no more Effect than might just suit with their own ends, and if possible, bring back the Prince with no more Victory than what might please them, & their Accomplices. In order thereunto, it is worth the while to consider how pat things were laid and fell out; for, our Preparations were so delay'd, that the *Dutch* got their Fleet out before us; and after we were in part ready, it was towards the end of *April* before the Prince could get his Commission, and Instruction to act by them; so that the *Dutch* having a Design to sink *Sinkers* between the *Middle Grounds*, to spoil the going of our Ships out and into the River, were very near the effecting of it; and had done it, but that his Highness suspecting it, with much industry got together as many of the *4th.* and *5th.* Rate Ships as he could, and some Fire-Ships, with which he went quickly out, and defeated the Mischief they intended.

Matters.



Matters being carried thus tardily by Friends at home, the same spirit seem'd also to possess our Confederates on the Coast of *France*: so that there was the more urgent necessity for us to have doubled our diligence, and to have made all imaginable haste; for we had certain intelligence that the *French* Fleet (being then at *Brest*) would not stir from their own Coast till they should hear that Ours were got into the *Chanel*; so that even then an *ill Omen* arose in our minds, that they in time of Action might fall short of such Alacrity as becomes so grand an Undertaking: Especially seeing we had at the same time intelligence also that the *Dutch* were labouring night and day to augment their Fleet, and would grow stronger and stronger every day. It being therefore necessary we should joyn the *French* with all speed, His Highness resolving thereon, gave a high proof of his Courage in all attempts, to pass in despite of the Enemy then riding nigh the *Gunfleet*; and of his Prudence, in so cleanly passing with the Fleet against the Wind through a Passage of so great hazard as the *Narrow*. For which hazard (to the endangering of His Majesties whole Fleet) the Nation owes much to the contrivers of those delays, which gave the *Dutch* opportunity to reduce His Highness to the necessity of so passing, if he meant to unite with the *French*. Which brave Atchievement of his struck such a terror into the Enemy, that they durst not abide by it, but bore away to their own Coast, to ride secure upon their Guard within the Sands at *Schonevelt*.

Which gallant Action of His Highness deserves so much the greater estimation, seeing never any Prince went forth upon a war for the Publick Good, and the Honour of any Nation, under greater discouragements: For some Persons of high Trust under His Majesty had such an Influence upon Affairs, that when they could no longer hinder the issuing forth of His Highness Commission, they took care so to qualifie and curtail it, that they left him



him not power to make so much as one Officer in the whole Fleet, unless he could upon request obtain the favour so to do; so that Persons were put upon him for Sea-Officers from whom (for the most part) as he could have no particular assurance of affection to himself, so he was altogether unacquainted, whether they had most Faith and Firmness to His Majesty and the Kingdoms Service, or to the Intrigues and Service of their own *particular Patrons*.

Upon this account it was, That when the Prince had pitched upon Sir *Robert Holmes* for Imployment under him, as a man of tried Valour, Fidelity, and Experience in Sea-fights, and one that his Highness could safely Confide in, being one that from his Youth had been Educated in his Highness's Family, it was so carried that he could by no means be admitted into any Command: and because of some animosity betwixt him and Sir *Edward Spragg*, that one point was made use of, as a pretence for the laying of him aside, notwithstanding the earnest Endeavours of the Prince to have got his old Servant along with him; one whom he might surely have relied on. And to that end, his Highness had propounded such wayes & means to reconcile the matter, so as to make both of them useful to the publick Interest, and to satisfy the Reason of all the Interested Objectors, if they had had a mind to be satisfied.

But it seems by what fell out afterwards, that they had other work for Sir *Edward Spragg* to do besides fighting by Sea, and therefore the sacrificing of Sir *Robert Holmes* to Privacy, and the laying him aside from the opportunity of prying into the management of Sea-affairs, was a thing by them judged on divers accounts at this time absolutely necessary to their ends; for they had determined (as appears) to send Sir *Edward Spragg*, though Vice-Admiral of the Blew Squadron, on a special Journey by Land to negotiate in the Court of *France* (who surely is the first Vice-Admiral that ever went out of *England* to the *French*, to learn how to Fight by Sea) where he was Graciously Received, Highly Cared,



Carested, and thence Nobly Dismissed (some say with a Jewel, &c.) and all this so carried, that it was without the privity of *Prince Rupert*, who perhaps knows not to this minute, and no more then his Majesties does, what business he transacted there.

Nor was this all; for, to make sure work yet further, it was as cautiously provided, that his Highness might not be crowded with too many Concerns; for, when His Majesty in his Royal Wisdom thought fit to give him a Commission to raise a *Maritime Regiment*, which was to have been paid out of the Establishment of *Ireland* by my Lord *Ranelagh*, they presently cast about how to frustrate this Order of the Kings, and thereupon offered so specious Reasons for it to his Royal Highness the Duke of *York*, that he was thereby induced to divert his Majesties purpose in that matter. So there was an end of this Commission.

And for the Chief Officers of his Highness's own Squadron, it must be remarked also, how he was accommodated (*viz.*) with Sir *Fohn Harman* for his Vice-Admiral; which is not mentioned as if any fault could have been found with Sir *Fohn Harman*, if he had then been the Sir *Fohn Harman* he once was, (that is to say) the same Active man and Gallant Commander; but alas! he was Sick when he went aboard, & there tyed by the leg in his Cabin with the Gout, not able to stir either hand or foot. The appointed Reer-Admiral of the *Blew* was Capt. *Norborough*, who being then absent in the *Streights*, came not in till after the two first engagements; which otherwise might have occasioned some competition among the Officers of the Fleet for that Place: For, though he were a good Seaman, yet there were many others in the Fleet that were of better merit, and longer Service; and the offence that must have been given to others, had he enjoined it, was taken off by putting a Person of so great Quality as my Lord *Ossory* into the Place. His Highnesses  
own



own Reer-Admiral, was Sir *John Chicheley*, a Person of Honour and Quality, yet but of late a Seaman : which is not said with intent of Diminution, but only to give a clear account of things : For though a man may be of never so much merit in other Qualifications, yet if he be put upon any Office or Employment, the less Experience he hath had therein, the less advantage he is like to bring to the Service.

By these things it appears how the main Wheelles were clogged, and how sick the Officers must needs be, and how faint the hearts of the whole Fleet, to observe how they were dealt with upon so important an occasion, as a War for the Interest and Honour of the King and Kingdom ; especially when they saw they wanted both Workmen and Tools for the work, ( that is to say ) *Seamen* and *Supplies*. As for *Seamen*, it is to be noted, That though the Prince made it his Business to urge the getting of them betimes, Yet notwithstanding all his solicitations, the Order for impressing of *Seamen* could not be got till it was very late, so that it was the Month of *March* before the Press began, though in the precedent year it began as early as *November*. But though it was this year so late as *March*, yet even then, matters were so carried, that it was impossible for his Highness to be sufficiently Mann'd, seeing the Press warrants were of little effect, being Checkt by Protections which had before been granted to Thousands of Sea men and Fisher-men, and Water-men that would have made good Sea-men. Nevertheless, his Highness abating no whit of his Affection and Zeal for His Majesty and his Nations Service, resolved to break through all discouragements ; and as ill accommodated as he was, seeing the *Dutch* Fleet were got out, braving it upon our Coast, did with all Expedition hasten forth to Sea ; being fed at least, and set forward with some empty promises, That Sea-men and Necessaries should be sent after him ; which proved at length to be but a miserable Slurr put upon



so high a Commander: And all other things miserably suited, when after it drew on to the Point of Action; as will appear in the ensuing part of this Relation.

For, on the 27th day of May, which was the day before our first Engagement with the Enemy; when his Highness perceived they would not admit of a Fight in fair Sea-room, but kept to their Advantage riding within the Sands at *Schonevelt*, He according to a resolve of a Council of War (His Majesty present) like a Magnanimous Prince, resolved to Fight them in that very place, rather then permit them to wear away the Summer with longer delays; which they seemed mainly to intend: which is the highest proof of Courage, the like Action having never been attempted in that station before. So all the Sands having been sounded some days before, and it having been concluded at a Council of War held on Board the *Royal Charles*, to Attack the Enemy Riding there at Anchor in a Line between the *Rand* and the *Stony Bank*, his Highness on the 28th. day about 9 a Clock in the Morning Commanded the firing of a Gun, upon which we loosed our fore-top-sail, and Weighed, and Hoisted the *Union Flagg* on the *Mizon Peak*, which is the Signal to Sail on towards the Enemy. This was accordingly obeyed by a Squadron that was ordered out of the several Divisions of the Fleet, consisting in all of 35. Frigats, and 13. Fireships, who went with an easie Sayl, the Wind at S. S. W. In the mean while the Body of the *French* (all, except some who stragling got into our Division. did indeed behave themselves very gallantly) made little or no Sail, but kept in the rear of us, though they saw the *Hollander* stretch it to the Northward. Then the Prince put forth the *Red Flagg* on the Fore-topmast head; so all our Commanded Ships went a head, and by 12. a Clock at Noon Engaged the Enemies Van, Commanded by *Tromp*: The Prince himself also Engaged two hours before the *French*; in which time we so pressed *Tromp*, that he was forced to give way, and retire

as



as far as the Sands would give him leave. Then the Count *d'Estrees* and the *French* Squadron became at length Engaged with *de Ruyter* : which prospered not so well; for, they bore him not down, but rather left him. And *de Ruyter*, not to be behind with them in kindness, quitted them, and came to his Highness, whose Squadron being too near the Shore, was for that Reason necessitated to stand the other way, to such degree, that had it not been for fear of the Shoales, we had driven them into their Harbours, and given His Majesty at that time a better account of them, notwithstanding the ill accommodations that we were under; more particularly in the *Royal Charles*, His Highness's own Ship, which proved so Cranck-sided, and fetch'd so much Water in at the Ports, that her lower Tire of Guns could not be made use of, though it was a very easie Gale that we had during this Engagement; the Issue whereof was, That the Enemy had many Men slain, many Ships disabled, and some destroyed; Yea, and *de Ruyter* and *Tromp* must have been burnt by our Fireships, had they done their Duty. We saw two Ships sunk. The *French* say they saw one burnt, two disabled, and three run ashore. The Loss on our side was very inconsiderable, two of our Ships being only disabled, viz. The *Cambridge* and *Resolution*: very few Common Men were lost, and only these Officers, Capt. *Fowlis*, Capt. *Worden*, and Capt. *Finch*. Colonel *Hamilton* had his Legg shot, of which returning home, he died at *London*. All the rest that Engaged came off very bravely.

Now from the time of this Action to the 4<sup>th</sup> of *June* little was done, save the repairing of defects, and amending our Tackle, towards which we were all ill furnished as we were with all other Necessaries, not having so much as Needles and Thread sufficient for the work, to the great Praise of our Providers be it spoken. And though his Highness had made it his Business Night and Day to get the promised Supplies of Sea-men aboard, and some had



undertaken to do it, yet it came to no Effect. On the 3d. of *June*, which was the day before our *Second Engagement*, his Highness suspecting the Enemy, that Riding on their own Coast they might be refitted and furnished with all things, the which benefit they knew (as the Wind stood) we could not have, and so would be Encouraged to come out again upon us, bestirred himself exceedingly to get into a posture fit to receive them : and not presuming to trust himself the second time in the *Royal Charles*, he this day quitted her, and having opportunity of Weather, went aboard the *Royal Sovereign*, where imagining the Enemy might Attack us that Night, he went not to Bed, but waited till Morning, *June* the 4th. when about 9 a Clock our Scouts gave the Sign, That the Enemy was a Weighing with fresh Sea-men and Provisions, to take their advantage against us, as they very fairly had it ; for then a strange thing was done by Sir *Edward Spragg*, who, though he was told of the Enemy, and saw them himself, yet would needs lose so much time as to come six Miles in his Boat, and bring his Reer Admiral my Lord of *Ossery* along with him aboard the *Sovereign*, under a pretence of Business ; the Consequence whereof was, That the Enemy coming on with the advantage of a stiff Gale of Wind at *N. E.* The Blew Squadron Commanded by Sir *Edward Spragg*, by reason of his absence, stood not away close by the Wind to the Northward, as he had been Ordered to do, though his Highness with all possible speed hastened him back ; who being got on Board, at length, after loss of time, made Sayl to the Northward. This passage of Sir *Edward Spragg* being observed by Count *d'Estrees*, he thereupon took occasion to lay by, and delay time ; which point of behaviour we knew not what to think of, it being the season of Action, for that the *Dutch* were bearing down to us. And now more then ever we became sensible of the want of Sea men, not having enough to Weigh up our Anchors ; so that to prevent a greater mischief, his Highness



Highness was constrained to order the cutting off his own Cable, that we might be up with the Enemy. By this time *Tromp* with the Van became Engaged with *Spragg*, and *de Ruyter* with his Highness, who made a shew as if he would come very near us; but before he came within Musquet shot, he sprung his Loof, and closed his Wind as much as he could, going off on a sudden for good and all; and then closing with *Tromp*, their whole Fleet being bravely repulsed, they cautiously stood Pelting at us at a great distance, that they might be the nearer to their Reserve of security within the Sands at *Schonevelt* upon occasion. It was about 5 a Clock in the Afternoon that the Engagement began; and when they were reduced to Pelting, it so continued till 11 or 12 a Clock at Night, we all the while keeping our Ground, notwithstanding their Fire-ships; after which they Tack'd, standing towards the East-Scutherly. Then about two in the Morning we Tack'd also, and stood after them; but seeing no likelihood of reaching them before they could get within the Sands, we thought not meet to follow them any further, and so Tack'd again and stood for our own Coast. What Loss they sustained, we, by reason of their going off in such a Confusion, cannot tell. On our side we lost very few of our Men, and of our Commanders only Capt. *White* of the *Warspight*, and Capt. *Sadlington* of the *Crown* were killed; of the Foot Officers, Capt. *Henshaw*, and Lieutenant *Fitzgerald*; and Lieutenant *Tuiston* was wounded: But for our Ships, as in the first Engagement, after we had sufficiently beaten the Enemy, we came off without the loss of one man of War, or so much as one Ship touching the Ground, though that Fight was maintained in a dangerous place. So in this Second Engagement, wherein the Enemy came on with the advantage of the Wind, Fresh Men, and Provisions, &c. against us, we lost never a Ship, and but few Men. For which His Majesty and the Nation owes much, next under God, to his Highness, who at a  
time



time when non-supplies, and want of Men, and of all necessaries, would have startled any man, gave such signal Evidence of his Courage, Diligence and Prudence in the Conduct of the Fleet, as is Admirable to consider in so great Discouragement and Disorder as we were under, by reason of the preposterous behaviour and delays of some others.

The next day, being *June* the 5<sup>th</sup> and no Enemy in sight, we had leisure to consider our Condition; and then from the whole Fleet came miserable complaints to his Highness of want of Sea-men, and all manner of things in every Ship, though all things had been often written for, and promised they should be sent after us; the Commanders exclaiming they should be thus exposed, so as not to have convenient Supplies, but be in want of Powder, Shot, Water, Beer, and small stores, Filhes, and what not; whereupon it being impossible to avoid a going home, to revictual and refit our selves presently, we set Sayl for the *Gun fleet*, and about 9 a Clock at Night came to an Anchor there, and thence the following day made towards the *Buoy of the Nore*, where on the eighth of *June* we Rode at Anchor, and on the 14<sup>th</sup> his Highness returned to *London* to give His Majesty an Account how things stood, and to Press on a speedy supplying of all Necessaries for the Refitting of the Fleet out to Sea again.

On the 21<sup>st</sup>. his Highness returned to the Fleet again, where, with indefatigable Industry, he set all things in forwardness, and made so quick dispatch, that had not a delay intervened, about a design of sending Souldiers to be Landed by us in *Holland*, we had been much sooner out at Sea: but by the 16<sup>th</sup> of *July* his Highness Weighed, and His Majesty also in his Yacht, having a strong Gale at S. W. and came to the *Middle-ground*, where humbly taking his leave of His Majesty, he quickly got the Fleet through the *Narrow*, and on the 19<sup>th</sup> of *July* stood with an easie Sayl



Sayl for the Coast of *Zealand*. The next day we discovered the Enemies Fleet at Anchor in the *Schonevelt*, bearing S. E. of us: On the 22<sup>d</sup>. in the Morning we stood to Sea, the Enemy no sooner perceived it but they stood after us, and the Wind Veering suddenly to the S. W. made them get the Wind of us, so that none of our ships could weather them. And to wave an Engaging, for which when they saw us putting our selves in Order, they stood for their own Coast again, and we pursued our Resolution of stand along their Coast, which we did the 24<sup>th</sup>. looking into the *Vly* to Anchor fair off of the *Texel*. So that on the 9<sup>th</sup>. of *August* we had the opportunity of taking one of the *Dutch Est Indea Ships* called the *Papenburgh*, making homewards. On the 10<sup>th</sup>. we had fight again of the *Holland Fleet* standing to the Northward, and bore down to them. Then his Highness Commaled the *French* a particular coure, the Enemy being come three Leagues to Leeward of us; but here the *French* were pleased to give us an early Taft of their Temper: For, their Fleet lay by twice that Night, and made so little Sayl, that the Enemy had opportunity to stretch out a head of us. The first time that the *French* now faltered thus was about 11 a Clock at Night; which his Highness wondering at, as contrary to Order, our whole Fleet was forced to lye by whilest a Messenger was sent on Board the Count *d'Estrees* to know the reason, and to Order him to make Sayl again. Nevertheless, after a little more Sayl made, he about one a Clock in the Morning laid his Sayls to the Mast again; which gave a second stop to our Fleet, while his Highness sent a Message by a second Messenger to the same purpose. And by this means the *Dutch*, making all the Sayl they could, and the Wind Veering to the E. and E. by S. they got the advantage of the Wind of us, being close by the Shore under *Camperdown*. About break-day we saw them about a League and half to Windward of us, the Wind being then at E. S. E. fair Weather: at which time



time both our Fleet and theirs were standing to the Northward. Upon this his Highness stretcht it away till six in the Morning, being Monday the 11th of *August*. The *Dutch* being then to Windward, began to bear down upon him: Whereupon his Highness thought fit to Tack, not having Room to the Eastward to Fight; by which Tacking the Fleet was brought into a very good Line and Order. The Wind now at S. E. his Highness prepared all things for a full and deciding Battel, putting abroad the Signal for our Fleet to Tack to the Southward; which they did. He had put the *French* in the Van, himself in the Middle, and Sir *Edward Spragg* in the Reer. Our Fleet being extended longer than the Enemies, and the Wind coming to the South, the *French* lay fair to get the Wind of them. However, the Enemy bore down and Engaged us; *de Ruyter* undertook his Highness: *Tromp* provoked Sir *Edward Spragg* and his Blew Squadron, who laid his fore-top Sayl to the Mast to stay for him, contrary to his Highness's Express Orders, and his own Duty; while *de Ruyter* and *Bankaert* Vice Admiral of *Zealand*, both of them with all their Men of War and Fireships, came down upon his Highness his Red Squadron, except eight Men of War of the *Zealand Squadron*, whom *Bankaert* had sent with three Fireships to fall upon the Reer of the *French* Squadron; where Monsieur *de Martel*, the *French* Vice Admiral, being Cannon shot nearer to the Commanded party of *Zealand*, than any other Ship of his Division, received Five of them with such bravery of Resolution, that he fought them two hours, and was so fortunate as to disable one of them, which the rest had enough to do to carry off; but by the way she appeared to be on Fire, caused by some Fire-balls that had been shot into her. This Gentleman *de Martel* seems by many Circumstances a most Gallant Man, Zealous of his own Honour, and the Honour of his Nation, and Faithful to the utmost; so that when he had observed the Carriage of his own Admiral *Count d'Estrees* upon this occasi-



occasion, he after the Fight sent the Prince an Account thereof in a particular Relation, it being as he said, the same that he had sent to his Master the King of *France*; wherein he taxed the Count, that he gave those *Zealanders* leave to pass by the whole Squadron of the *French* with their disabled ship, to secure her and themselves in making back to the rest of their *Zealand* party: of which when *de Martel* challenged the Captains of his Division for failing to relieve him, they said they had Orders from Monsieur *de Estrees* to regard none of his Motions, so that it seems the Count chose rather to venture a point of Honour, then depart from his own private reserve of mind. This Action being over, *de Martel* retired, and united again with the main Body of the *French* Squadron; where he afterwards durst not be so forward any more, but stood as still as the rest of his Fellows: Of which more by and by.

By this behaviour of *de Estrees* there is Ground enough to Collect, That *de Ruyter* and the *Zealand Vice-Admiral* were before hand pretty confident, that the *French* would not hurt them: which made the *Zealander* send onely that small party of Men of War, to fall upon *de Martel* for his forwardness; else there had been no reason he should have presumed so far to neglect the *French*, as to unite himself and all the rest of the *Zealanders* with the Squadron of *de Ruyter*, to bring their whole force upon his Highness.

It was about 8. a Clock e're the Fight began, and before 9. there fell a Fogg, with a small Rain, which continued until high Noon; then it cleared up, and the Wind came to the South, which put the *French* being a head, to Windward of the *Dutch*: And then the Battle being renewed, the whole burthen and brunt of *de Ruyter* and *Ban-  
aert*, (those Men of War also that fought *de Martel* being united) fell again upon his Highness and Sir John Har-  
nans Division, while the *French*, instead of Tacking and



Engaging the Enemy (as was expected from them) stood away to the S. E. the Wind then at S. S. W. and stood full two Leagues away before they Tack'd again, adding this Complement to the former, when they gave the eight *Zealand* Men of War free passage back from *de Martel* to their Fellows. Now as this gave great Encouragement to the Enemy, so it would have appall'd any Man less Couragious then the Prince, to see himself thus deserted. But besides this, it was strange that Sir *Edward Spragg*, contrary to Order, and to the solemn assurance that he gave his Highness in Person the day before, not to be from his side, should make a separate Fighting with *Tromp* so far Leeward of all the rest. Nor was his Highnesses Rear-Admiral Sir *John Chickely* with his Division near, because the Enemy had soon interposed between him and the Prince: so that betwixt twelve and one of the Clock, his Highness was wholly surrounded by the *Dutch*, being pressed by *de Ruyter* and his Squadron on his Lee-quarter, an Admiral with two Flags more on his Weather-quarter, and the *Zealand* Squadron on his broad-side to Windward. Thus they imployed all their Forces, having designed to take no more notice of the *French* than the *French* did of them, or of his Highness; although they had continually in their Eye, the *Blew Flag* set upon the *Mizon Peak*, which was the Signal to fall on, expressly set down in the General Instructions for Fighting, which had been sent before by his Highness to Count *d'Estrees*; which hath been attested also by *Martel* in his Relation, and that the Prince did give the Signal before mentioned, with all other signs that might incite *d'Estrees* to bear down to his Assistance, having a fair Wind for the purpose; but that instead of this, he kept the Wind, contenting himself to give his ships more than Cannon and half distance from the Enemy. And 'tis related further by *de Martel*, That himself saw very well how shameful this was; but being under Command now, not to Attempt any thing without Order from the



the Count; and besides, not daring to trust the Captains of his own party to follow him, who in the former Action this day had deserted him, he shrugged up his shoulders, and could do no more but forbid any shooting from his ship: And he concludes his Relation with these words, *That if the Count would have fallen in with the fair Wind upon de Ruyter and Bankaert, at their first Engaging, who far exceeded the Prince in number of force, they must needs have been inclosed between his Highness and d'Estrees, and so there would have been an entire Defeat of the Enemy.*

Nevertheless, his Highness prosecuted the Fight on, with an undaunted mind, and so answered them at all points, that he gave them enough of it, and so forced them to give way, That he soon got an opportunity to joyn with Sir *John Chichely*: which being done, about two of the Clock his Highness discovered Sir *Edward Spragg* with his *Blew Squadron* at a great distance, about 3 Leagues to Lee-ward, bearing *N. N. E.* and not knowing what Condition that Squadron was in, and not hearing the Guns well plyed, he made all the sayl he could towards them, to unite and relieve them, if he should find occasion required it.

No sooner had *de Ruyter* perceived the design of the Prince, but he left Firing, and bore away also with his whole Fleet, to the relief of *Tromp*; so that both Fleets ran down side by side within Range of Cannon-shot; but without firing on either side; and as we were sayling down, we saw many of *Spragg's Blew Squadron*, which we judged had received some damage to VVindward of his Body; and some of the *Red* likewise, to whom his Highness fired a Gun, as a call to them to bear down to him: notwithstanding which they did not; but about 4. a Clock we were got nigh the *Blew Squadron*, where we found Sir *Edward Spragg's* ship the *Royal Prince* wholly disabled, her Main-mast, Mizon-mast, and foretop-mast shot away, and divers more ships of his Squadron disabled, the Vice-



Admiral of the Blew laying to Windward of her, mending his Sails and Rigging; the Earl of *Offery*, Reer-Admiral of the Blew, lay a stern of the *Royal Prince*, between her and the Enemy; bending of his new Sails, and mending his Rigging, and two Frigats by him: whereupon his *Highness* sent two Frigats to take the *Royal Prince* in a Tow.

Now *Tromps* Squadron lay to the Eastward of them, some of them Disabled also of their Top-masts and Yards, part of his Squadron with his Vice-Admiral and Reer-Admiral standing to the Eastward close by a Wind with all the sail they could to gain it, and so they Tack't again upon the Blew; at which time we came near them, being about four a Clock: Then *de Ruyter* fired a Gun, upon which *Tromp* Tack't, with design to make themselves Masters of our Lane ships, viz. The *Royal Prince* and others; the *Royal Prince* being bravely defended by Sir *John Kempthorn*, and the Earl of *Offery*, and assisted by some of the same Squadron. This made us lay by for Sir *John Kempthorn*, to get our Fleet in order to Attack the Enemy again, and then his *Highness* put out the *Blew Flagg* upon the *Mizon-Peck*, which is the usual Signal to bring all the Ships into the Generals Wake or Grains, and set Ketches, Sloops and Boats, to ships that were to windward, to Command them in: whereupon we bore up, and steered in between *de Ruyter* and our Lane ships, and fired a Gun to some of our own ships to windward to bear down; but none came near to Assist his *Highness* but Sir *John Kempthorn* and my Lord *Offery*; so we have reason to believe, that except his *Highness* had come in so happily to the relief, the *Blew Squadron* had been totally lost, since they were so Disabled, that no more of them but those two Flags only were in a condition to give them any Assistance in a further encountering with the Enemy.

About 5. a Clock *de Ruyter* with all his Flaggs and Fleet, came side by side close up with the Prince: so there began  
a very



a very sharp Engagement ; his Highness had none besides the Vice-Admiral & Reer-Admiral of the Blew to second him, but Sir *John Harman*, Captain *Davis* in the *Triumph*, Capt. *Stout* in the *Warspight*, and his Highnesses own Division, Sir *John Holmes* in the *Rupert*, Captain *Legge* in the *Royal Katherine*, Sir *John Berry* in the *Resolution*, Sir *John Earnly* in the *Henry*, Sir *Roger Strickland* in the *Mary*, and Capt. *Carter* in the *Crown*, a 4th. Rate ship ; in all, not above 13, or 14. ships : The Fight was very sharp and close ; about 7. a Clock his Highness forced the Enemy into a very great disorder, and then sent two Fire-ships amongst them ; which increased it ; and if the *French*, who now again lay at a convenient distance to Windward, would have obeyed the Prince his signal, and bore down upon the Enemy according to their Duty, we must needs have Routed them, and Torn them in Pieces. It was the plainest and greatest opportunity that ever was lost at Sea. The Fight continued till the day was nigh spent, and the sun just setting ; all which time his Highness seeing my Lord of *Ossery* and Sir *John Kemphorn* both in some measure Disabled, and none else likely to be Assisting to make a through end of the Business, it was high time to carry off our Disabled ships ; to which purpose he edged off towards them with an easie sail, and the *Dutch* laid their heads to the Eastward : so the Battel ended.

When the Night had parted us and the Enemy, and no more was to be done, came a Messenger from Count d' *Estrees* the *French* Admiral, to demand Orders, and to know what was meant by the *Blew Flagg upon the Mizzen-Peck*, though all the English knew, and so did his own Vice-Admiral acknowledge, and the Instructions for Fighting which the Prince had sent him, and others of the *French* Captains can tell, and all the World, that he had as much Reason to know it, and more Eminently, than any of themselves ; however, it was cunningly done of Count d' *Estrees*, by a special Message to compleat the whole



whole affair thus with a perfect Mockery, after the *Hollanders* had stood off to their own Coast.

As to the Damage on either side, great Execution was done upon the Tackle and Rigging by both Parties, and divers Ships disabled; *Tromp* shifted his Ship on that Account once, and Sir *Edward Spragg* twice; so that when the *Royal Prince* was disabled, he went and set up his Flag in the *St. George*; which becoming disabled also, he was fain to take Boat to go on Board the *Royal Charles*, and had not Rowed ten Boats length, but a Bullet came and broke his Boat: They made back again as fast as they could, before they could get within throw of the Ropes, the Boat sunk, and Sir *Edward Spragg* was drowned, though when he was taken up his Head and Shoulders were found above Water, his Arms having taken so dead a hold of some part of the Boat, that they could not dis-engage him from it. Neither we nor the *French* lost one Ship of War; only the *Henrietta* Yacht was sunk by the side of my Lord *Offory*. Of the slain we are to reckon Captain *Le neve*, Captain *Merryweather* of the Duke of *Buckingham's* Regiment, being Foot-Officers, and Mr. *May* a Volunteer. Of Sea-Commanders Sir *William Reeves* (a person of great bravery, one that from his youth had been Educated by his Highness, and who had constantly attended him with high Courage, and Fidelity in all Fortunes by Sea and Land; so that he arrived to the skill, and made good the Character of a Gallant Commander) and Captain *Heyward* (a Gallant old Sea-man) both dyed of their wounds, which were all of note that we hear of. In his Highness's own Ship were sixty men slain and dangerously wounded.

What the Enemy lost was hard to determine; but two of their great Ships of 70. and 60. Guns were lost, in our fight, the one sunk by Sir *John Kempthorne*. Two of the *Dutch* Flag-Officers with several Captains were slain; and of Common Sea-men a very considerable number.

Now



Now, having run over all the particulars of this Summers Action, let us pause a little, and consider the Heroick behavior of the Excellent Prince; how Gloriously he acquitted himself in all the parts of a great General, and whether it were possible for any Man, under such Circumstances, to do more than he hath done? In the midst of so many Intrigues of Opposition here at home, so many delays of his Commission, so few Powers contained in it, such scanty number of Sea-men, so little assurance of divers Chief Commanders, such failure of Provisions, such want of Ammunition and all other Necessaries, such deceit of Navy-Officers, such non-observance of Orders at Sea amongst his own *English*, and so manifest defections of the *French*, not to be Staggered in his Resolution, nor to be put out of all Patience and Prudence in Action, nor to abate of his Affection and Zeal for the Honour and Service of hHis Majesty, the safeguard and Interest of Religion and the Kingdom, in a season when so many Popish Projectors plaid a Game under board, and above too, will be an everlasting Argument of his Highnesses Valour and Renown; and must needs be a strong Obligation upon the King, the Parliament, and people of *England*; who are now left to judge, whether it was not a wonderful good Providence of God, and one of the most memorable pieces of Service ever done at Sea, to surmount all those difficulties, and even Envy it self; and after all, to bring home the Fleet *Royal* of *England*, without the loss of one Man of War, to her own shore in safety, in despite of all Enemies that designed otherwise by Sea and Land.

FINIS.





